

## **I-69: Evansville to Indianapolis Fact Sheet**

### **Status**

- As of January 2005, the planned construction start date was pegged at 2017, at the earliest, with completion as late as 2035. Governor Mitch Daniels found this to be unacceptable because of the importance this highway has to southwest Indiana and the state's economy. He directed INDOT to develop strategies to move the construction timeline forward so work can begin as soon as possible.
- The only way to make I-69 a reality in an acceptable timeframe is to construct it as a toll facility. In September 2005, the governor directed INDOT to pursue all steps necessary to accelerate the final alignment, identify state legislation necessary to create public-private partnerships and to research partnering options with companies experienced in financing, building and operating toll facilities.
- Two tolling options are under consideration. The first option utilizes state funds to design, construct and manage the highway – similar to the Indiana Toll Road. The second scenario is a public-private partnership. This method leverages private dollars to pay a portion of construction cost. A private company then builds, manages and operates the facility as a toll road. This technique, popular in other countries, is beginning to be utilized in the United States.

### **Numbers**

- Route length: 142 miles
- Estimated cost: \$1.8 billion (includes environmental studies, design, land acquisition, construction)

### **Route History**

- In the early 1940's, a direct highway connection from Evansville and Indianapolis was first explored.
- In 1991, the United State Congress designated Corridor 18, between Indiana and Texas, as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.
- In the late 1990s, Congress determined that Corridor 18 would be a part of a national interstate highway system.
- In 2003, the State of Indiana approves Alternative 3C as the I-69 corridor between Evansville and Indianapolis.
- In March 2004, after further environmental studies, the Federal Highway Administration issues Record of Decision and approves "3C" alignment.

### **Project Goals**

Nine project goals were developed in three categories:

- Support economic development in southwest Indiana
- Strengthen the transportation network in southwest Indiana
- Complete the portion of the national I-69 project between Evansville and Indianapolis

### **Studies**

- In 1999, an Environmental Impact Study evaluated a wide range of I-69 highway corridors to link Evansville with Indianapolis. The study clearly indicated the alignment that met the project's purpose and need and provided the greatest benefit is State Road 37 to Bloomington with a new, direct connection to Evansville.
- Currently, the highway is organized into six sections. Each is on its own timeline to complete environmental work and to determine the final highway alignment. All six sections are set to complete this work by summer 2007.